(kgs)

Year	Per capita output
1997-98	198
1998-99	206
1999-2000	209
2000-2001	191

It can be seen that the per capita output of foodgrains has been fluctuating over the years. This is mainly because of fluctuation in the production of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) As on 1.2.2002, there was 564.26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in the Central Pool. The open ended policy of procurement along with attractive Minimum Support Prices coupled with reduced offtake from the Public Distribution System, has resulted in large accumulation of stocks of cereals with the Food Corporation of India.

Agricultural Research and Development Institutions

2771. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any incentive scheme for bringing the level of agricultural research and development institutions of the country above the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no incentive scheme as such. However, the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) with the World Bank assistance to the tune of US 239 Million dollars. The NATP Project aims to uplift the standards and quality of agricultural research development institutions of the country through competitive grant schemes, Mission Mode Schemes and Centres of Excellence.

Another Project on Agricultural Human Resource Development (AHRD) Phase-I has been completed to upgrade the infrastructure and quality of agriculture education in four State Agricultural Universities. In Phase-II of the AHRD Project, all the State Agricultural Universities will be included.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting farmers' focus to oilseeds cultivation

2772. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy to shift famers' focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds, as about 40 per cent of country's requirement is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therfor;

(d) whether Government have fixed higher targets for foodgrains exports in the current fiscal year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps mooted to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no specific scheme to shift farmers' focus from cultivating foodgrains to oilseeds. However, under Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), assistance is given for various inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB, micro nutrients etc. for increasing area coverage and production of oilseeds in various States.

(d) to (f) No targets for export of foodgrains have been fixed for the current fiscal year. However, the export of wheat and wheat products has been made free with effect from 5.3.2002. The condition of registration of export contract with APEDA for non-basmati rice